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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 21, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, Armenian Apostolic Church of America, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we seek Your grace and wisdom in our lives and in our leaders that they may serve Your people with truth and justice.

Remember Your faithful servants, the Armenian people, who for 95 Aprils have lived with the memory of the genocide of 1½ million of their nation. We pray that such barbarity never again be inflicted upon any of Your creatures. We give thanks for the blessings that You have bestowed upon the remnant of the Armenian people who were welcomed and given new life in the United States of America. We thank You for delivering us from the depths of despair into this land of liberty.

Bless America, the country of greatness and goodness. Renew the values of our American heritage so that America will remain the country of truth, freedom, justice, and peace.

We stand before You and ask this in Your name and for Your glory. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### WELCOMING ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN CHOLOYAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the Representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan in his offering of the opening prayer, and join my colleagues this week in the sad commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

On this 95th anniversary of the genocide, I join with a chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

The archbishop is the head of the Armenian Church in the United States, which is located in my district. As the spiritual shepherd of several hundred thousand Armenian Americans in the Eastern United States, he plays a sig-

nificant role in the life of the Armenian community. It is a great honor to welcome him today.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### INTRODUCING HOME HEALTH CARE PLANNING IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Seniors who see a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant as their primary care provider face unnecessary delays in receiving necessary home health services. Medicare recognizes that nurse practitioners and physician's assistants diagnose and care for patients, prescribe medications, and order nursing home services for seniors, all in accordance with State law.

But even when State laws explicitly include ordering home health care within the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, as Pennsylvania does, Medicare still requires a physician's signature for referral and payment. That Medicare allows nurse practitioners and PA's to sign the forms to place a senior in a nursing home but not for less expensive home health care just doesn't make sense. This requirement leads to unnecessary and costly delays.

I urge my colleagues to join with me to fix this problem and to ensure that seniors get the care that they need in appropriate and cost efficient settings by cosponsoring my bill, H.R. 4993, the Home Health Care Planning and Improvement Act, and make sure that

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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